

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for routing packets in a network in conjunction with a quality of service guarantee, comprising:

receiving a packet having a header section and a payload section;

inspecting the payload section of the packet in a network core ~~for use in determining how~~
as a prelude to route routing the packet, the step of inspecting, comprising;

extracting data attributes from the payload section,

comparing the extracted data attributes to two or more attributes filters, and

if the comparing step indicates that each of the two or more attributes filters is
satisfied, performing a set of functions;

determining a quality of service guarantee for the packet; and

selectively routing the packet based upon the inspecting and the quality of service
guarantee.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, further including performing the inspecting step at a router in the network core.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, further including propagating the ~~filter~~
attribute filters to a router in the network for use in performing the inspecting.

Claim 6 (Original) The method of claim 1, further including programming a router in the network for performing the receiving, inspecting, and routing steps.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~inspecting step includes~~
~~inspecting attributes for use in set of functions includes~~ determining how to route the packet ~~or~~
~~whether to drop the packet altogether.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for routing messages in a network, comprising:

receiving a message having a header section, at least one subject, and ~~at least one attribute~~ a plurality of data attributes;

retrieving the subject and the ~~attribute~~ data attributes from the message;

retrieving a subscription based upon the subject;

determining a quality of service guarantee for the message;

applying the ~~attribute~~ data attributes to the subscription in a network core in order to determine how to route the message, the subscription specifying a plurality of filters, the step of applying the data attributes, comprising:

extracting data attributes from the payload section,

comparing the extracted data attributes to two or more attributes filters, and

if the comparing step indicates that each of the two or more attributes filters is satisfied, performing a set of functions; and

selectively routing the message based upon the applying and the quality of service guarantee.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, ~~further including~~ wherein the set of functions includes routing the message ~~if the attribute satisfies the subscription.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, further including discarding the message ~~if the attribute does not satisfy the subscription~~ any of the two or more attribute filters is not satisfied.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 8, further including performing the inspecting step at a router in the network core.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for routing packets in a network in conjunction with a quality of service guarantee, comprising:

a module for receiving a packet having a header section and a payload section;

at least one module for inspecting the payload section of the packet in a network core ~~for use in determining how to route the packet, an inspection comprising:~~

extracting data attributes from the payload section,

comparing the extracted data attributes to two or more attributes filters, and

if the comparing step indicates that each of the two or more attributes filters is satisfied, determining how to route the packet;

a module for determining a quality of service guarantee for the packet; and

a module for selectively routing the packet based upon the inspection results obtained from and the quality-of-service guarantees determined by the ~~steps inspecting and quality of service modules~~ above.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, further including a module for performing the inspecting step at a router in the network core.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim ~~17~~ 14, further including a module for propagating the filter to a router in the network for use in performing the inspecting.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, further including a module for programming a router in the network for performing the receiving, inspecting, and processing.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus is a router.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for routing messages in a network, comprising:

a module for receiving a message having a header section, at least one subject, and at ~~least one attribute~~ a plurality of data attributes;

a module for retrieving the subject and the ~~attribute~~ data attributes from the message;

a module for retrieving a subscription based upon the subject, wherein the module for retrieving the subscription includes a module for retrieving a ~~filter~~ plurality of filters corresponding with the subscription;

a module for matching the ~~attribute~~data attributes to the ~~subscription~~plurality of filters in a network core in order to determine how to route the message; and

a module for determining a quality of service guarantee for the ~~packet~~message.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 21, further including a module for selective routing the message if the data attribute satisfies each of the subscription plurality of filters and based on the quality of service guarantee.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 21, further including a module for discarding the message if the ~~attribute does~~data attributes do not satisfy ~~any~~all of the ~~subscriptions~~filters stored at the router.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of claim 21, further including one or more modules for performing the filtering step at a router in the network core.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a router.